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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Federal Judge Denies Petition to Open Bridge Site to Local Law Firm**

Minneapolis - Late this afternoon a federal judge in Minneapolis denied the petition of a local personal injury law firm seeking access to the collapsed 35W bridge site. Less than an hour after hearing oral arguments on the petition, which was filed with the Court earlier this week, United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz handed down his decision.

In a ten-page order, Judge Schiltz sided with the National Transportation Safety Board, an agency of the federal government that has controlled the site since the bridge collapsed on August 1, 2007. In his order, Judge Schiltz said, "The government has an urgent interest in recovering the bodies of the victims, clearing the site of unstable and dangerous wreckage, reopening the Mississippi River to commerce, and beginning the rebuilding of the bridge as soon as possible. These challenges are daunting enough without the Court turning loose dozens of lawyers, expert witnesses, and investigators on the site."

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After the court's order was issued, United States Attorney Rachel K. Paulose, whose office represented the interests of the National Transportation Safety Board in this matter, said, "Judge Schiltz's order is well-reasoned and supported by both the facts and the law. The order captures well what is at stake here: recovery of the victims, clearing the wreckage, and rebuilding the bridge."

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